

high-altitude form there are two buffish-white birds, and one, a female, has a wing of only 123.5 mm., and is, therefore, on colour and size, inseparable from *D. m. mauritanus*. The distribution of red, which varies from a bright alizarin scarlet to a bright crimson, varies individually, both in its width, as in the nuchal band in the males, and in its extent upwards from the anal region in both sexes; in most specimens it reaches to about the mid-point on the body, while most show a little to a strong band in the pectoral region.

It would seem that this race ranges from at or about 1000 feet upwards.

## A new Race of *Cisticola* from Portuguese East Africa.

Lieut.-Colonel JACK VINCENT, M.B.E., sent the following description:—

### *Cisticola chiniana emendata*, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—In summer dress differs from *C. procera* and *C. fischeri* Reichenow in being considerably darker above, and with the back much more nearly plain, this lack of mottling being more pronounced when compared with *C. frater* than is the case with *C. procera*. In fact the summer dress approaches more closely to that of the perennial plumaged *C. heterophrys* in Tanganyika Territory.

In winter the plumage is generally much redder than in all other races, particularly in the suffusion of rusty buff below.

*Type.*—Adult male, in the British Museum collection, collected by myself at Mirrote, Mozambique Province, Northern Portuguese East Africa, 13° 50' S.—39° 35' E. at 900 ft. altitude, on June 17, 1932. Collector's no. 1589; Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.1230

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 66, culmen from base 16, tail 65, tarsus 25 mm.

*Remarks.*—On returning home on leave from the Middle East and perusing ornithological literature published since the outbreak of war, with a view to keeping up to date with African systematics, I noted some observations by Praed and Grant in Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 70. In this these writers draw attention to critical remarks on some races of *Cisticola chiniana* (A. Smith) made by myself in 'The Ibis, 1935', p. 711, and Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 174, and throw out the race I described under the name of *C. c. mocuba* Vincent as being not a new racial name but a substitution for *C. procera*. They further state that *C. c. mocuba* becomes a synonym of Peters's race, and cannot be extracted and used elsewhere; and add that the type, co-type, and type-locality I designated have no standing.

The review of the distribution of the races *C. c. frater* and *C. c. procera* of the species *C. chiniana* and the decision to describe a new race were at that time, in 1933, done in close collaboration with the late Rear-Admiral H. Lynes and the results published by me at his request, since he was most dissatisfied with the arrangement of *C. procera* given in his Ibis Supplement, 1930. Rear-Admiral Lynes was not prepared, as far as *C. procera* was concerned, to continue to "accept it for the race from Tete to Mozambique", and welcomed my long series from Northern Portuguese East Africa to clear up the vexed question of birds from the Tete area. He had already decided that specimens from this latter portion of the Middle Zambezi valley (whence *C. procera* was described) were really indeterminate, and too close to *C. c. frater*, as well as unlike, the birds of northern Mozambique and southern Tanganyika Territory. Indeed, the race *C. procera* is a fair example of the position aptly described by Mackworth-Praed on p. 224 of 'The Ibis', 1943, wherein a "cline" is complicated by the naming of a division in the scale that is by no means sharp.

It would appear, from Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 70, that our rearrangement was not done in accordance with the rules governing ornithological nomenclature, and I bow to the criticisms made; but in view of the fact that Rear-Admiral Lynes did not wish *C. procera* to cover the wide distribution necessitated by the deletion of *C. c. mocuba*, I forward this description of a new race, with a new type and type locality designated from the ample series of fifty-three new specimens available. In conclusion I also append a summary of the races involved, with their distributions.

With reference to the *Cisticola* Review, Ibis Supplement, 1930, the ranges at present known of the four races above mentioned are as follows:—

*Cisticola chiniana frater* Reichenow: S.W. Africa, S. Angola, west and central Bechuanaland and Northern Rhodesia, eastwards into Portuguese East Africa, but only so far as the edge of the mid-Zambezi plateau.

*Cisticola chiniana procera* Peters: Middle Zambezi River and lower Shiré River valleys (Tete area of northern Portuguese East Africa, and Chiromo and Port Herald areas of southern Nyasaland).

*Cisticola chiniana emendata* Vincent: Nyasaland and Portuguese East Africa, north of the Zambezi valley, from Angoniland on the west to Mozambique on the coast; extending northwards into southern Tanganyika Territory as far north as the south-eastern Morogoro district, where intergradation with *C. c. heterophrys* is evident.

*Cisticola chiniana heterophrys* Oberholser: Eastern Tanganyika Territory and coastal Kenya Colony.